

INFORMATION REPORT

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**SUPPLEMENT TO
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The following is a translation of an official Chilean confidential report on a Pro-Peace meeting which took place at Maria Elena, Chile, on 31 August 1951:*

"On 31 August 1951 a meeting organized by the Pro-Peace Committee of Tocopilla, Chile, took place in the plaza of Maria Elena, Chilean nitrate plant. The purposes of the meeting were to inform the 200-odd listeners about the Pro-Peace Movement's aims and to organize a 'Maria Elena Pro-Peace Committee'.

"Jose Ramirez Esquivel, president of the Tocopilla Pro-Peace Committee, opened the meeting by saying that they had come to Maria Elena in order to found a pro-peace committee similar to those which had been founded in other places, and eventually to form a departmental headquarters of the pro-peace adherents, since all the people wanted peace. Ramirez asked for co-operation with Comrade Coroceo, who, at a previous meeting, had been made responsible for naming the members of the new committee.

"Alejandro Diaz Cortes, leader of the Tocopilla Pro-Peace Committee, criticized the 'Americans, who went to get the world in another war'. He cited the case of Korea, where, he stated, the Americans were trying out their new arms. He emphasized that everyone must respond to the Stockholm Peace Petition in order to protest the war-making policies of the United States, which wished to amass fortunes at the cost of the starving peoples.

"Juan Esteban Garcia Romero, leader of the Miners' Federation, spoke at length about the Americans' pro-war policies throughout the world. Then he stated that the people should unite through their union representatives to put an end to the government's repressive policies. He said that now is the time to abolish the repressive laws which had been passed under the threat of a third world war and which now served only to persecute and jail the leaders and defenders of the working classes. Garcia Romero added that the workers must

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remained united, and he cited as an example of the value of unity the fact that the solidarity of the coal miners aided them in recent negotiations with the Ministry of Labor. He ended by saying that the government was wasting money buying unserviceable planes, and ships, while essential articles were not available.

"Union leader Juan Manuel Cordozo Cortes was designated to form a Pro-Peace Committee at Maria Elena and was given a quota of 5,250 signatures to collect."

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The above report is considered of interest for its description of the way in which the Chilean Communists organize Pro-Peace committees in new localities, to broaden the scope of the Pro-Peace Movement, which is undoubtedly the Communists' most important propaganda activity in Chile at the present time.

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